



FY 2006 Environmental Enforcement Training Report

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Office of Compliance
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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National Enforcement Training Institute
Environmental Enforcement Training Report
FY 2006



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Compiled by U.S. EPA's National Enforcement Training Institute

This report captures environmental enforcement training activities by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) both at the Headquarters and Regional level. By reporting and coordinating these activities, the **National Enforcement Training Institute (NETI)** recognizes the achievements of those involved and encourages continued efforts to provide quality training for environmental enforcement professionals around the country. The detail of the report is divided into two sections: Headquarters and Regional Offices.

In summary, EPA's enforcement and compliance program trained 11,319 persons in fiscal year 2006, through a combination of classroom, computer and videotape training. This includes 6,721 by Headquarters' offices and 4,598 by Regional offices.

NETI, created by Congress in 1991, is responsible for training federal, state, local, and tribal enforcement professionals, such as lawyers, inspectors, civil and criminal investigators, and technical experts, in the enforcement of the nation's environmental laws. Quality training courses are provided for enforcement personnel in a number of areas, such as case support, specific statute enforcement, compliance assistance, and environmental criminal enforcement. By using traditional classroom training, distance learning, and cooperative agreements with other organizations, NETI's strategy is to promote a balanced training approach to environmental enforcement training.

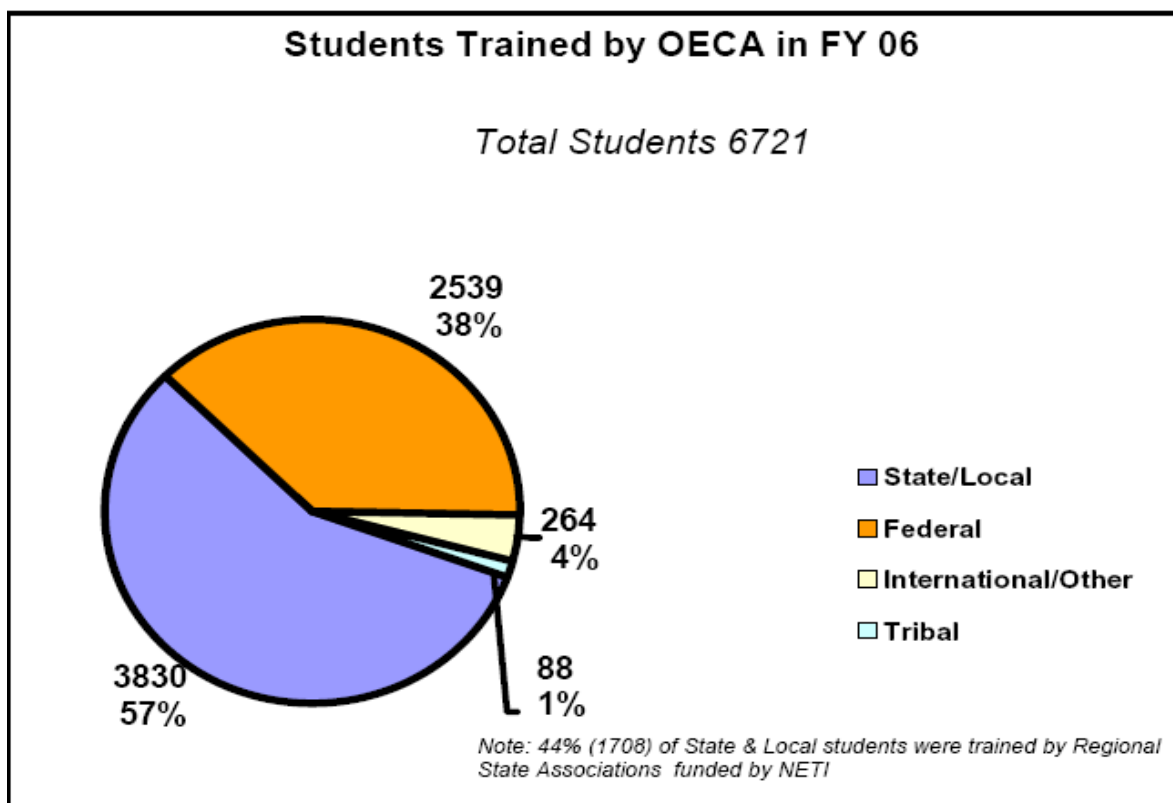
NETI is a division within the Office of Compliance (OC) which is in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA). Besides teaching and managing a number of its own courses, NETI continues to serve as the coordinating office for enforcement and compliance monitoring training that is created, taught or contracted for by OECA offices, and reports Regional office activities.

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance at Headquarters

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) is located at EPA Headquarters and is composed of five program offices and four staff offices. Training resources are generally decentralized within the organization; thus each office within OECA is responsible for developing and delivering training courses for its areas of expertise and programs for which it serves as national manager.

Training Statistics

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), as reported through NETI, trained 6,721 federal, state, local, tribal and international personnel through 202 different course deliveries in FY 2006. Training state and local government personnel remained a strong focus, as a combined total of 3,830 students, or 57%, were trained from these organizations. A total of 2,539 federal employees received training (38%), international and other students numbered 352 (5%), and 88 students from tribal governments received training (1%).

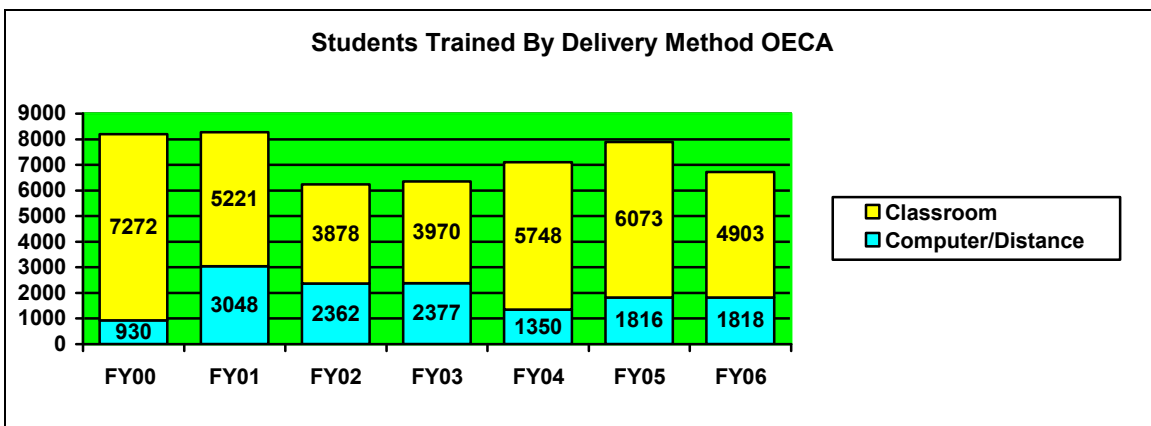


Multi-Year Comparison

Employer	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Federal	2508	2178	2500	2282	2539
International	138	155	280	453	126
Local*	552	450	0	0	0
Other	182	165	97	151	138
State	2610	2912	2617	4852	3830
TOTAL	6240	6347	5748	7889	6721
Tribal	250	487	254	151	88

note* State and Local are combined for 2004 thru 2006

Of the 6,721 trainees for this year, 1,818 persons, or 27%, were trained via non-classroom courses and products this year. Most of these students used computer-based products such as CD-ROM and web-based training.



Training Highlights

Various offices within the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), including NETI, developed or delivered training this year. Following are highlights of the new or unique courses.

The Office of Civil Enforcement (OCE), formerly the Office of Regulatory Enforcement

Webinar Versions of Computer Model Courses: OCE has developed five computer models to assist enforcement personnel in:

- calculating a violator's economic gain from violating the law (**BEN**);
- determining whether the violator has a legitimate inability to pay argument (**ABEL, INDIPAY and MUNIPAY**); and
- calculating the real out-of-pocket expenses for a supplemental environmental project (**SEP**).

From 1988 until 2004, all the training provided for these models took place in computer laboratories with an instructor on site. In 2004, OCE began experimenting with distance learning versions of these courses using a web-based approach. After experimenting and improving the webinar versions of these courses, **over 20 of these courses were presented via the web in FY 2006**, most of which were at capacity. While the in-person training still gives the best training experience for the student, the webinar versions are now a very legitimate alternative. Training can now be provided on an “on demand” basis as opposed to waiting until the course can be presented at a location convenient to the student.

The Office of Compliance (OC)

“Breaking Barriers Workshop”: The Office of Compliance’s Agriculture Branch sponsored and coordinated **“Breaking Barriers Pesticide Inspector Training (PIRT) Workshop”** in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Agriculture in August 2006. This workshop was designed to teach inspectors about differences in Hispanic and mainstream U.S. culture that can affect the interview process, and how to open communication channels with Hispanic workers who speak or understand limited or no English. This course included intensive Spanish language training specific to inspectors' needs as well as interviewing and cultural training.

Because of the unique nature of this course and limited funding, 21 inspectors were selected from numerous states across the country (GA, NE, AZ, OR, NV, MO, WV, WY, KY, DC, TX, ND, OK, CT, MS, OH, NC, WI) and one inspector from American Samoa who routinely conduct Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Pesticide use inspections to participate.

A pre-test was given to check the student's knowledge of Spanish. Students were provided with a Pesticide Inspectors' Manual for Interviewing Hispanic Agricultural Workers, a WPS Screening Interview Flip Chart, and audio CD as tools to assist them in interviewing Spanish-speaking farm workers. In the classroom, inspectors were taught Spanish through games, scramble exercises and puzzles in which they actually used Spanish. Inspectors also practiced speaking in Spanish using the flip chart to interview each other. Inspectors also used the flip chart at a mock inspection held at a nearby tree farm, where inspectors interviewed Hispanic workers. A post-test was conducted at the end of the course to see how much they learned. Students acknowledged that they felt more confident in interviewing Hispanic workers as a result of the course, and requested a "Breaking Barriers Workshop II."

The Office of Federal Activities (OFA)

NEPA Training Courses: Numerous requests for OFA's core National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) training courses, including **"Section 309 Clean Air Act Review," "Cumulative Impacts Assessment" and "NEPA and Environmental Cross-Cutters,"** in conjunction with their overwhelming popularity, necessitated that these courses be offered more frequently and hosted in expanded venues in FY06. In addition, NEPA Training was expanded to include two new course offerings tailored to meet the needs of NEPA practitioners: **"NEPA and Adaptive Management" and "NEPA and Air Impacts."** The results were that over 275 participants received NEPA training in FY 06.

International Training: Demand for delivery of OFA's international training courses has increased exponentially as the environmental cooperation agreements negotiated in conjunction with U.S. bilateral free trade agreements provide commitments and resources to help strengthen environmental law and enforcement by U.S. trading partners. The potential benefits and reach of these courses have been expanded through translation of course materials into more languages and training of practitioners in other countries to continue to deliver the courses. This year, **"Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)"** course materials have been translated into French and Arabic for regional training, and train-the-trainer sessions of **"Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment"** were held in Bahrain and Oman to 56 participants from 12 countries.

Through the EPA Interagency Agreement with USAID, EPA has been able to get a head start on capacity building in Central America that will take place as part of the CAFTA-DR trade agreements. This year, OFA delivered its inspector training course, training trainers in the **"Conducting Environmental Compliance Inspections"** in two regional sessions, one in Costa Rica and the other in Panama. OFA also held a train-the-trainer session in Puerto Rico with EPA Region 2's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division to increase the cadre of trained Spanish speaking facilitators.

EPA Spanish language teams delivered the “**Principles of Environmental Enforcement**” in Paraguay and Colombia this year; the sessions were followed up by OFA coaching of the new trainers as they presented the course themselves in subsequent deliveries in each country.

In addition, two training sessions, one in **enforcement** and one in **environmental impact assessment review**, were held this year for 25 participants from diverse ministries and levels of government in Mali under a multi-year work program with USAID. This was our first delivery of capacity building in Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, NETI and Region 7 concluded their efforts to help establish an internal inspector training program for the South African Department of Environment and Tourism.

OFA has been partnering with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, INECE, and the World Bank for several years to deliver capacity building activities. This year, we have strengthened EPA partnerships with regional development banks and delivered the “**EIA Review**” course to 20 seasoned Asia Development Bank EIA reviewers from its headquarters and country offices in Manila, the Philippines. OFA also helped coordinate the Office of Compliance’s participation in regional training in Southeast Asia with INECE and the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN). Training was provided on **compliance assistance** in Thailand and **compliance and enforcement indicators** in Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines.

The delivery of OFA’s international training was carried out with the support of OECA headquarters staff and staff in EPA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Tribal Training: Through the initiative of EPA Regions, an adaptation of OFA’s international EIA training courses was offered to staff from 12 tribal governments in conjunction with the Coeur d’Alene Tribes in Region 10 and to 2 tribal governments in conjunction with the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Tribes in Region 8.

Partnerships

Regional Environmental Enforcement Associations: NETI continued to provide funding to four Regional Environmental Enforcement Associations to assist in providing training at the state and local levels. These organizations are alliances of regulatory, law enforcement, and prosecution agencies and were created by the states to support the effective enforcement of environmental statutes, with an emphasis on criminal enforcement. In addition to providing training, they offer networking opportunities, information support services, and technical assistance to their 47 member states and four Canadian provinces.

In FY 2006, the State Associations trained a combined total of 1,708 students.

- Midwest Environmental Enforcement Association (MEEA), located in St. Charles, IL, trained 167 members
- Northeast Environmental Enforcement Project (NEEP), located in Trenton, NJ, trained 164 members
- Southern Environmental Enforcement Network (SEEN), located in Montgomery, AL, trained 517 members
- Western States Project (WSP), located in Phoenix, AZ, trained 860 members

Environmental Enforcement Training Network: As part of our efforts to advance a culture of continuing education for EPA's enforcement and compliance professionals, NETI sought to strengthen and renew the relationship between NETI and the rest of the enforcement and compliance offices in FY 2006. All enforcement and compliance offices, both at Headquarters and in the Regions, re-designated a contact with whom NETI can work to implement a training program that enhances the abilities of all to perform our jobs. The Network met for the first time via conference call in October 2006 and will continue to work to provide effective communication and information exchange for the training program.

Training Facilities

Besides providing training in EPA's Regional Offices around the country and at other state locations, NETI manages two state-of-the-art training sites:

- **NETI-Headquarters:** over **22,000 people** attended various training activities, meetings, and video conferences this year in this facility, located in the historic Ariel Rios building in downtown Washington, DC.
- **NETI-West:** **1,539** people attended training at NETI-West, which is located in Lakewood, Colorado, a suburb of Denver.

For more information . . .

NETI's web site can be found at www.epa.gov/compliance/training/neti. The Catalog and Schedule of OECA's courses, as well as other training information and materials, are available on the web site. If you have other questions, please contact NETI at 202-564-2430.

EPA Regional Offices

EPA's Regional Offices provide a number of training opportunities for their staff as well as for state, local, and tribal government personnel located within their respective Regions. For the purposes of this report, only those training activities related to enforcement and compliance monitoring are included. Following are some training highlights for FY 2006:

Region 6, Dallas:

Each year, Region 6 offers a **“Basic Inspector Workshop”** for personnel of state, local and tribal agencies located within Region 6. Other annual training workshops held this year included:

9th annual “Air Inspector Workshop”: in coordination with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Region 6 hosted the workshop on April 25 - 27, 2006. This course included 29 speakers and was developed for the purpose of increasing the inspector's knowledge of the Clean Air Act permits and regulations, field inspection capabilities, knowledge of regulated processes and environmental management systems, and to improve the exchange of information between the state, tribal, federal and local government programs. Approximately 140 inspectors from across the country attended the course.

10th annual “NPDES Inspector Training Workshop”: in coordination with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Region 6 hosted the workshop on March 14-17, 2006, which included a field training session in which EPA conducted, with the City of Austin and TCEQ, full storm water field site visits, with site inspection, Best Management Practices evaluation, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan record reviews. Approximately 150 inspectors from EPA, state agencies, the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico, and several large municipalities attended the workshop.

21st annual “RCRA Inspector Workshop”: in coordination with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Region 6 hosted the workshop on May 16-18, 2006, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The workshop included 20 speakers and was developed for the purpose of increasing the RCRA inspector's knowledge of permits and regulations, field inspection capabilities, regulated processes, penalty calculations, and to improve the exchange of information between the state, tribal, federal, and local government programs. Approximately 90 RCRA inspectors and enforcement officers from across the country attended the workshop, including representatives from Vermont, Indiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, the Cherokee Nation, EPA – Region 6, and NEIC.

Region 8, Denver:

As part of OECA's national priority on **financial assurance**, Region 8 hosted several training events for state and regional staff. The audience included permit writers, inspectors, project managers and attorneys who are involved in making compliance determinations regarding operator financial assurance demonstrations. Region 8 also worked with Headquarters and its contractor to provide training to EPA's North Dakota field office. The training was well received by the participants.

Region 10, Seattle:

Region 10 made a commitment to increasing inspector training opportunities. Training was developed locally to address multiple areas: refresher training, cross training of inspectors, and developing and refining skills.

The largest commitment in time and resources was the institution of a **Regional Inspector Workshop**. It had been eight years since inspectors in the region were brought together with the single purpose of addressing inspector issues. The workshop started with an all-day training in courtroom strategies and acting as a witness and ended with health and safety refresher training. The middle day was for information sharing and discussion of issues important to inspectors. The response to the workshop was very positive, resulting in plans to make the workshop an annual event.

Region 10 established a regular inspector training program dubbed **Inspector University**. The goal was to re-acquaint inspectors with basic tasks and enhance skills. Inspector University presents topics on a monthly basis in one to two-hour sessions on a variety of subjects. Report writing, interviewing, evidence gathering, photography and sample quality assurance were among the various topics this year. Cross training in other programs also gave inspectors an overview of RCRA, CAA 112(r), and criminal investigations to broaden perspectives. Presenters are recruited from Regional staff.

Several of the training opportunities presented were open to and attended by state and local agencies in a cooperative effort to provide training for inspectors and field personnel. EPA staff has also attended training sponsored by other agencies.

Regional Training Statistics

Following are training statistics for FY 2006, as reported by each Region. For the purposes of this report, only enforcement and compliance monitoring training activities are included.

	# of Federal Students	# of State & Local Students	# of Tribal Students	Total Students
Region 1	62	155	7	224
Region 2	289	1297	15	1601
Region 3	9	87	0	96
Region 4	284	503	1	788
Region 5	62	299	40	401
Region 6	63	386	14	463
Region 7	22	1	0	23
Region 8	19	38	0	57
Region 9	10	2	65	77
Region 10	316	485	67	868
Totals	1136	3253	209	4598